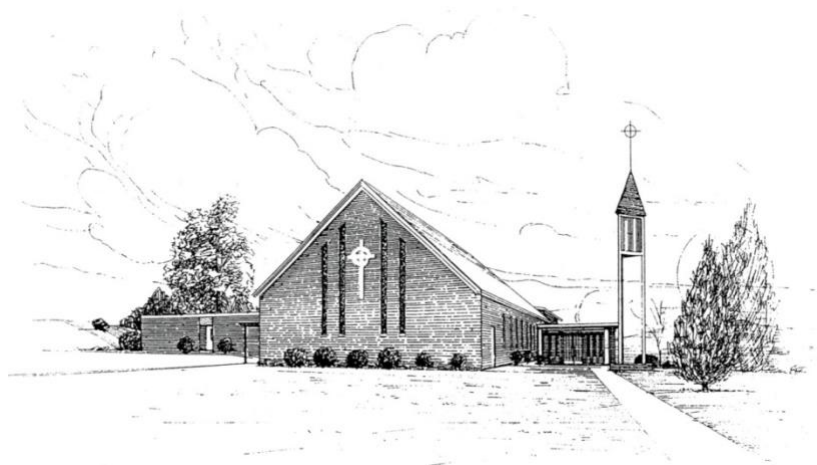


NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

October 15, 2023
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today. Together we celebrate and rejoice in God's blessings in our lives!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 23; Matthew 22:1-14

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

SHARING THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

Karen Gwitt

GATHERING HYMN 403 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

**Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace.**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 23)

Minister: The Lord our God leads us like a shepherd.

**Congregants: God nourishes our lives and restores
our souls.**

Minister: The Lord is with us, even in the darkest valley.

Congregants: God's goodness and mercy are always present.

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 624 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, in You is more love
and more grace than we can imagine.
You have shown Yourself in Jesus Christ
as the God Who meets us where we are
and the God Who loves us as we are.
We are glad for this day in worship with You,
and we are grateful for Your many gifts to us.**

**We know that we are weak, and often led astray,
but You are strong, and guide us back to Your path.
Our ways are flawed, but Your ways are true.
Forgive us, we pray. Redeem us, and transform us.
Take away the sinfulness that burdens us,
and restore us to the people You would have us to be.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 588 *Alleluia*

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia! **Congregation: Alleluia, alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia! **Congregation: Alleluia, alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia! **Congregation: Alleluia, alleluia!**

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia! **Congregation: Alleluia, alleluia!**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

All Good Gifts

Natalie Sleeth

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 15:6-15

⁶ Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷ Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸ So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹ Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' ¹⁰ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹² Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call* the King of the Jews?' ¹³ They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' ¹⁴ Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

BARABBAS

Dr. Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 438

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Presbyterian "Brief Statement of Faith")

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human and fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news, teaching by word and deed,

blessing the children, healing the sick,

binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned, Jesus was crucified,

suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life

and breaking the power of sin and evil,

delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place,

we rejoice that nothing in life or death

can separate us from the love of God

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GO FAITHFULLY

HYMN OF DEDICATION 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

*CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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Earth Care: Earth Care:

U.S. residents emit 16.1 tons of carbon per person per year, according to the World Bank. This is less than in the 1970's when that number was around 22.5 tons, but it's still far above the 2050 goal set by the Paris Climate Accords, which is 2.1 tons of carbon per person per year. To shrink your carbon footprint, if you recycle **half your household waste**, you can save 2,400 pounds of CO2 annually. Which of your bins is fuller? Strive to put more of your waste in your recycling bin.

Thought for the month:

“Respect for the human being and respect for nature are one and the same, but they will both be able to develop and to reach their full dimension if we respect the Creator and his creature in the human being and in nature.” Pope Frances

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to my Northminster family and friends for all the prayers, cards, and hugs shown during this difficult time. I am so glad to be a part of such a wonderful Church family that reflects Christian love. Sue Lunsford

The Men's Prayer breakfast will meet this Thursday, October 19th, at 8:30 am at Pete's Deli.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL LUNCHEON PROGRAM open to all members next Sunday, October 22, following the morning worship service. The Presbyterian Foundation will be with us to provide important information on PLANNED GIVING, and how you can continue to support Northminster's work into the future. To reserve a seat, contact Richard Claterbaugh or the Minister.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in our morning worship service on Reformation Sunday, October 29. You are encouraged to be in prayer and spiritual preparation as we approach the Lord's Table of grace.

Circle 1 is launching a project to help students of the Teen Challenge - Eastern Appalachian Region chapter in Roanoke. Throughout October we will be collecting house cleaning products and personal hygiene/sundries Please help us make this project successful. Thank you for your participation.

If you and your family would like to participate in the 2 cents a meal program, please pick up a box in the narthex. You will also find an explanation of what the 2 cents a meal is all about. Our church received grant money from this fund to help defray expenses to put food in our Blessing Box. Once your box is full, you can return it to the church.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast at Pete's Deli
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Planned Giving Meeting

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Pastor
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Ministers...Members of Northminster

Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Lauren Axelson, Nursery Attendant

If you or someone you know should be included in the list of those needing special prayer, please contact the Pastor. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Pastor know.

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling
Pam Claterbaugh	Barry Ferrell	Karen Gwitt
Marie Haines	Jake Hayes	Dennis Kincer
Sheila Lancaster	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Patsy Linton		

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Steve Brammer	Glenna Brammer
Lucy Collier	Annette Daughty
Terry Foss	Molly Guerrant
Gladys Hughston	Skylar Kirby
John Morris	Vicki Widener

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Tom Hale, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Daniel Kirby, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Dora Slee, Gayle Wise

